

S/N: 09/737,371
Reply to Office Action of April 29, 2005

Atty Dkt No. 2000-0626 (MEDO 5035 PUS)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A system for distributing digital images to a user, the system comprising:

an image capture device for creating digital images, wherein the digital images include metadata containing information about a source of the digital images;

at least one image server in communication with the image capture device, the image server receiving and storing digital images transmitted from the image capture device; and

at least one programmable software agent in communication with the at least one image server, the at least one software agent including at least one set of user-specified criteria for selecting digital images, the at least one set of user-specified criteria including a desired source of the digital images, wherein for each set of user-specified criteria the at least one software agent automatically ~~and repeatedly~~ compares the user-specified criteria with the available digital image metadata of digital images available at the image server during a first time period over time to continually evaluate and select digital images provided by the image server from the desired source for distribution to the user, the at least one software agent automatically comparing the user-specified criteria with the metadata of additional digital images not available during the first time period whenever the additional digital images are made available at the image server.

2. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one software agent is operable to monitor the at least one image server for digital images.

3. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one image server is operable to push digital images to the at least one software agent.

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4. (original) The system according to claim 1, further including at least one display device for displaying the digital images selected by the at least one software agent.

5. (original) The system according to claim 4, wherein the at least one software agent is associated with the at least one display device.

6. (original) The system according to claim 4, further including a central processor in communication with the at least one display device.

7. (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein the at least one software agent is associated with the central processor.

8. (original) The system according to claim 7, wherein the central processor includes a plurality of programmable software agents corresponding to each of the display devices.

9. (original) The system according to claim 4, wherein the at least one display device is connected to a home network.

10. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one software agent and the at least one image server are in communication via a broadband network.

11. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the image capture device is in communication with the at least one image server via a wireless communication link.

12. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the image capture device is in communication with the at least one image server via a synchronization cradle.

13-14. (canceled)

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15. (currently amended) A method for distributing digital images to a user, the method comprising:

transmitting digital images from an image capture device to at least one image server, the digital images including metadata containing information about a source of the digital images;

receiving and storing the digital images at the at least one image server;

providing at least one set of user-specified criteria for selecting digital images to at least one programmable software agent in communication with the at least one image server, the at least one set of user-specified criteria including a desired source of the digital images; and

for each set of user-specified criteria, automatically ~~and repeatedly~~ comparing the user-specified criteria with the ~~available digital image~~ metadata over time of digital images available at the image server during a first time period in order to continually evaluate and select digital images from the desired source for distribution to the user using the at least one programmable software agent; and

automatically comparing the user-specified criteria with the metadata of additional digital images not available during the first time period whenever the additional digital images are made available at the image server.

16. (original) The method according to claim 15, further including displaying the digital images selected by the at least one software agent.

17. (original) The method according to claim 15, further including creating the digital images using the image capture device.

18. (original) The method according to claim 15, further including monitoring the at least one image server for digital images using the at least one software agent.

19. (original) The method according to claim 15, further including pushing digital images from the at least one image server to the at least one software agent.

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20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A programmable software agent for selecting digital images for distribution to a user, the software agent in communication with at least one image server having stored digital images, the digital images including metadata containing information about a source of the digital images, the software agent including at least one set of user-specified criteria for selecting digital images, the at least one set of user-specified criteria including a desired source of the digital images, wherein for each set of user-specified criteria the at least one software agent automatically ~~and repeatedly~~ compares the user-specified criteria with the available digital image metadata of digital images available at the image server during a first time period over time to continually evaluate and select digital images provided by the image server from the desired source for distribution to the user, the at least one software agent automatically comparing the user-specified criteria with the metadata of additional digital images not available during the first time period whenever the additional digital images are made available at the image server.

22. (previously presented) The programmable software agent according to claim 21, wherein the software agent is operable to monitor the at least one image server for digital images.

23. (previously presented) The programmable software agent according to claim 21, wherein the at least one image server is operable to push digital images to the software agent.